

ALDWINCLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2015 at 7.30pm in Aldwincle Village Hall

PRESENT: Bob Blakeman (Chairman) (RB), John Lawrence (JL), Tim Hankins (TH), Bernard Lowe (BL)

JL agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.

1 PUBLIC OPEN TIME Two members of the public were present and both expressed concerns about school traffic and parking both in current circumstances and the planned school expansion.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Brian Penney, Barry Watts

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on May 19th were approved and signed by RB

5 MATTERS ARISING

9 The first section of wall has been rebuilt

10 The signed contract for the appointment of Richard Reed as parish clerk from 1 September 2015 had been received by RB

6 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The council went into closed session to discuss the co-option of a new parish councillor to fill the vacancy. Three members of the village had expressed an interest and all appeared to be eligible. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to ask David Strode-Willis to become a parish councillor.

Mr Strode-Willis joined the meeting and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Annual Return- 31 March 2015 JL reviewed the figures included in the Annual Return. The precept for the year 2014/15 had been £7000. Actual expenditure in the year was £6492 with further expenditure of approximately £900 from the year's budget authorised on the first phase of rebuilding the wall around the village hall. At 31 March 2015 the general account bank balance was £10149, of which approximately £3000 was needed for the costs of renewing the playground lease, and approximately £500 for other items accrued at 31 March.

It was resolved that the Annual Return be approved and it was signed by RB as chairman and JL as acting clerk. The first phase of the audit of the Annual Return is due on 2 July.

A brief discussion of the current state of the budget for the current year took place.

7.2 Accounts for payment

E-ON	£43.76	Maintenance to 30 June
E-ON	£103.87	Supply to 31 March
Aldwincle Baptist Church	£10.00	Use of church for May meeting
Shoosmiths	£2040.00	Payment of Diocese lawyer's fees for lease renewal

Francis Hale	£255.00	Grass cutting (105 + 140)
B J Watts	£600.00	Rebuilding wall at village hall

It was resolved that these payments be made

Action JL

8 HIGHWAYS

BP has sent a report for the meeting in his absence.

Very little action has taken place on the matters outstanding despite frequent chasing. The area around 2 manhole covers in Lowick Lane had been repaired in the last week but all other matters were outstanding. It was agreed that the condition of the road surface in Lowick Lane was now in need of urgent action and could be a danger to cyclists. BP to be asked to contact the highways contractor on his return.

Action BP

It was noted that there was overhang of vegetation near the Lowick Road/Main Street junction. RB will speak to the householder.

Action RB

It was agreed to consider the question of further street light upgrades at the next PC meeting.

9 PLANNING

The Council had been notified of 2 applications

- Oak framed garage at The Old Rectory
- Changes to plans for new house at 12 Cross Lane

It was agreed that no objection should be made to these applications

9.1 RB reported that he had received no response to his letter setting out the council's views on the plans for the school expansion. He had contacted NCC on Monday 29th June and had found that the case officer only works 2 days a week. He had requested that she ring him back on 1st July. On the phone he had been informed that the school application would be considered at a meeting in August. RB agreed to find out whether this would be a public meeting where the council could make representations.

Action RB

10 POCKET PARK LEASE RENEWAL

The land agent for the Merchant Venturers has informed the council that the Merchants are prepared to renew the lease at the old rate of £10 a year but would require a payment of £750 (plus VAT) towards legal costs of renewal. This was later reduced to £375 (plus VAT) after discussion with RB.

It was agreed that a survey of villagers should take place to gauge enthusiasm for and likely future use of the Pocket Park and to ask the landlord what works they are proposing to carry out in the park as part of any lease renewal process.

Action RB

11 CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 The council has received notification that the grant application to the Mick George Fund towards the planned playground expansion has been unsuccessful. Although no reasons are given RB believes that the predominant use of the playground by schoolchildren from outside the village community may have been a factor. It was agreed to review alternative funding sources and the scope of the plans. It was also agreed that in view of the use by children attending the school it

might be possible to look to the school/NCC for some contribution to costs for this and the wear and tear to the car park beside the village hall as a result of school traffic.

11.2 A letter has been received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission stating that the payment made to the council (£21 every 3 years) relating to All Saints will no longer be made as the administration costs are greater than the payment made.

12 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

12.1 Village Hall The refurbishment work is now complete. There is a tea dance/BBQ/disco day arranged for 30 August to raise money for a village defibrillator. TH currently has funds of approx. £200 from previous events and it was agreed that these would be held in the council's bank account as a separate fund.

12.2 Police Liaison TH reported that there had been more police presence in the village recently following thefts from outbuildings and vehicles. The police are keen to resurrect Street Watch (formerly Neighbourhood Watch) and are prepared to send someone to a PC meeting. It was agreed to pursue this **Action TH**

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 September at 7.30 in the village hall.

14 POINTS FOR NOTING

14.1 It was agreed to review how the government's proposed right to buy policy might affect the housing association properties at Cross Lane in view of the Section 106 agreement in place.

Action DS-W to review and report to next meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.15